

10/538029

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUN 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 to 10, without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. - 10. (canceled)

11. (new) A method for separating rolls of a roll set traveling on a conveyor from each other, the conveyor comprising a conveyor belt or chain running about driving and tail pulleys, comprising:

transporting the roll set on a top surface of said conveyor belt or chain;

forming onto the top surface of the conveyor belt or chain an elevation sufficient to separate the rolls from each other when the rolls of the roll set are transported over the elevation.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the elevation is formed with an elevating roll assembly adapted to operate below the top surface of the conveyor belt or chain and comprising at least one rotary elevating roll.

13. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein a height of elevation between the top surface of a base level of the conveyor belt or chain and a top level of the elevation is adjusted during operation of the conveyor, the base level of the conveyor being a level of the conveyor upstream of the elevation.

14. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein a height of elevation between the top surface of a base level of the conveyor belt or chain and a top level of the elevation is adjusted during operation of the conveyor, the base level of the conveyor being a level of the conveyor upstream of the elevation.

15. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the at least one elevating roll is a polygonal elevating roll.

16. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the at least one elevating roll is an elliptic elevating roll.

17. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the at least one elevating roll is a roll rotating eccentrically.

18. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the at least one elevating roll is a polygonal elevating roll.

19. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the at least one elevating roll is an elliptic elevating roll.

20. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein at least one of the at least one elevating roll is a roll rotating eccentrically.

21. (new) A conveyor for transporting a roll set, comprising:

a conveyor belt or chain running about driving and tail pulleys, the conveyor belt or chain being configured to support a roll set on a top surface thereof;

an elevating roll assembly positioned below a portion of the top surface of the conveyor belt or chain and operable to form on the top surface of the conveyor belt or chain an elevation sufficient to separate the rolls of the roll set from each other when the rolls of the roll set are transported by the conveyor belt or chain over the elevation.

22. (new) The conveyor of claim 21, wherein the elevating roll assembly comprises at least one rotatably mounted elevating roll.

23. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein the elevating roll assembly comprises two elevating rolls adapted to operate in succession along a travel direction of the conveyor.

24. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein the at least one elevating roll is a polygonal elevating roll.

25. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein the at least one elevating roll is an elliptic elevating roll.

26. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein the at least one elevating roll is a roll rotating eccentrically.

27. (new) The conveyor of claim 23, wherein at least one of the elevating rolls is a polygonal elevating roll.

28. (new) The conveyor of claim 23, wherein at least one of the elevating rolls is an elliptic elevating roll.

29. (new) The conveyor of claim 23, wherein at least one of the elevating rolls is a roll rotating eccentrically.

30. (new) The conveyor of claim 21, wherein a height difference between the top surface of a base level of the conveyor belt or chain and the top level of the conveyor elevation is 2 to 6 mm, the base level of the conveyor being a level of the conveyor upstream of the elevation.

31. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein a height difference between the top surface of a base level of the conveyor belt or chain and the top level of the conveyor elevation is 2 to 6 mm, the base level of the conveyor being a level of the conveyor upstream of the elevation.

32. (new) The conveyor of claim 23, wherein a height difference between the top surface of a base level of the conveyor belt or chain and the top level of the conveyor elevation is 2 to 6 mm, the base level of the conveyor being a level of the conveyor upstream of the elevation.

33. (new) The conveyor of claim 21, further comprising a means for adjusting the elevation.

34. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, further comprising a means for adjusting the elevation.

35. (new) The conveyor of claim 21, wherein the elevating roll comprises two wheels and a spacer member, one of the two wheels being on each side of a longitudinal center line of the conveyor belt or chain, the two wheels being rotatably supported with as the spacer member mounted therebetween.

36. (new) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein the elevating roll comprises two wheels and a spacer member, one of the two wheels being on each side of a longitudinal center line of the conveyor belt or chain, the two wheels being rotatably supported with as the spacer member mounted therebetween.

37. (new) The conveyor of claim 21, wherein a length of the elevation in a direction of travel of the conveyor belt or chain is 150 to 250 mm.

38. (new) The conveyor of claim 23, wherein a length of the elevation in a direction of travel of the conveyor belt or chain is 150 to 250 mm.

39. (new) The conveyor of claim 30, wherein a length of the elevation in a direction of travel of the conveyor belt or chain is 150 to 250 mm.

40. (new) The conveyor of claim 31, wherein a length of the elevation in a direction of travel of the conveyor belt or chain is 150 to 250 mm.